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**A fed bear is a dead bear.** Bears can become dangerous if they become accustomed to human foods and lose their fear of people. By keeping garbage and human foods that attract bears from this area, we hope we can get them to eat their natural foods. If they approach and endanger people, the bears will be trapped and relocated. If they return, the only option left is to kill the bears. Please help us keep the bears wild by following our guidelines.



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Remember, negative confrontations with bears are usually the result of bears acting defensively rather than acting aggressively. Bears are generally not dangerous to people.

### Ten Fast Facts About Black Bears

1. Eats mostly berries, nuts, grasses, carrion and insect larvae
2. Have color vision and a keen sense of smell
3. Are good tree climbers and swimmers
4. Very intelligent and curious
5. Can run up to 35 miles per hour
6. Weigh an average of 125 to 600 pounds
7. Go without food for up to 7 months during hibernation in northern ranges.
8. Usually gives birth to 2 to 3 cubs during the mother's "hibernation" every other year
9. Can live over 25 years in the wild (average age in the wild is 18)
10. Are typically shy and easily frightened, but on rare occasions may be dangerous if threatened or when protecting their young.

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# Be Aware Of The Bear

## Philpott Lake



Image by David Kirshner & Frank Knight



## **Help Keep Wild Bears Wild!**



Black bear sightings have been increasing near our parks. Human food and garbage attracts the bears. We are trying to alleviate this problem but we need your help.



**Put any food or items that smell of food (cooking utensils, bags, ice chests, etc) inside your vehicle when no one is around your picnic table.**

Anything that smells of food should be stored inside a locked vehicle, preferably in the trunk or under a blanket so that the items are not visible. Items such as toothpaste, mouthwash, deodorant, air fresheners should also be included.



**Do not leave garbage that may attract bears on or around your campsite and picnic table.** Please deposit all trash inside the dumpster near the entrance to the park. Please close the dumpster lid after depositing your trash. If you observe garbage left next to the dumpster, or if the dumpster is overflowing, please notify a Corps of Engineers Ranger.



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**If you observe a bear in the park, or a bear approaches you, try to scare it away; please DO NOT FEED IT, nor try to attract it to you.** Stay calm—DO NOT RUN (running may elicit a chase response by the bear.) The bear is interested in food...not you. Pick up children to reassure them; restrain dog; avoid eye contact, if close. Try to scare the bear away by yelling or banging objects together to make a lot of noise. If the bear does not run away or acts "threatening", immediately stop trying to scare the bear away. If the bear stands up, he is NOT going to attack but is curious and wants a better sniff or view. Back away slowly; if bear chomps jaw, blows, lunges, or slaps ground or brush with paw, he feels nervous. Slowly retreat from area or make wide detour around bear; don't crowd or block bear's escape route.

**At NO TIME should anyone intentionally or unintentionally feed bears so they can associate food with people.**